

Futures Group Special Meeting Next Friday

At the request of members, a special meeting of the Futures Advisory Group will be held a week from today, on Friday, February 24, from 1-3 p.m. in Conference Room 2B at the Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington. The principal agenda item will be a general discussion of the group's work to date. Specific proposals will *not* be on the agenda. This meeting is intended to deal with general program and process issues and not with site-specific issues. Persons wishing to participate by phone may call 1-877-278-8686 pin 460795.

Futures: Greensboro

Health Commissioner Paul Jarris has written to the select board in Greensboro and to the Greensboro Association, asking for opportunities to continue the dialogue with residents who have questions about residential recovery programs in general and the Lakeview Inn proposal in particular. "I appreciate that the people of Greensboro have many valid questions about using the former Lakeview Inn for a mental health recovery residence," Jarris wrote to the select board. "I'm sure that you can appreciate, however, that we in state government have a responsibility to find appropriate sites for such programs... I believe that we and the people of Greensboro both will learn much that is valuable in pursuing this effort." Northeast Kingdom Human Services has addressed a similar letter to the select board. The letters are posted on the Mental Health Update web page.

Futures: Health Department, Fletcher Allen Begin Collaboration

State officials met with their counterparts at Fletcher Allen Health Care this week to begin working toward an understanding how the Futures recommendation for an inpatient facility at the academic medical center might be developed. First steps will include

- Production of a guiding agreement that will describe the initial phase of collaboration between the State and Fletcher Allen.
- Fletcher Allen's participation in the Futures facilities work group that has been meeting with Architecture+ to develop site possibilities and rough cost estimates for capital construction.
- Establishment of a community outreach committee to provide information and solicit community input. The committee will include local residents, city officials, professionals, family members and consumers.

Futures: Architecture+ Provides Next Iteration of Space Plan

Based on input from the facilities work group's February 6 meeting, Architecture+ has provided revised space plans for primary and "additional capacity" inpatient facilities. Notes from the meeting and the revised space plans are posted on the Mental Health Update web page. The next facilities work group meeting is next Tuesday from 1-4 p.m. at the Health Department offices in Burlington.

Futures: VDH, BGS & Architecture+ Begin Meeting With Hospitals

Architecture+ and staff from the Health Department and the Department of Buildings and General Services have begun meetings with potential inpatient partners. They met with representatives of Fletcher Allen Health Care and Rutland Regional Medical Center this week and will be at Retreat Health Care next week.

Futures: Milliman to Begin Actuarial Work

Milliman, Inc., a national actuarial consulting firm (www.milliman.com), has been selected to provide expert assistance in estimating the bed capacities needed for adult psychiatric inpatient services over the next 10 years to replace the Vermont State Hospital. The review will include consideration of community services capacity and general hospital psychiatric bed need. The Milliman contract is posted on the Mental Health Update web page.

Vermont State Hospital Reports to Board of Health

The Vermont State Hospital's February 15 report to the Board of Health, pursuant to its licensing condition, is posted on the Mental Health Update web page.

Vermont State Hospital Inspected by the Division of Licensing and Protection

Surveyors from the Division of Licensing and Protection spent three days this week inspecting conditions at Vermont State Hospital. The survey, which was unannounced, is the means used to determine whether the hospital meets basic standards for hospital care and services. A written report will be posted when received.

More Safety Inspectors To Tour Vermont State Hospital

Retired JCAHO surveyor Carroll Ockert of Shelburne and architect Gary Graham of the Boston firm of Graham/ Meus Inc., will conduct a joint psychiatric facility security and safety audit at Vermont State Hospital on Tuesday. Ockert conducted a similar review at the hospital last April, and Graham comes recommended by the Department of Building and General services as a top architect with psychiatric facility experience. Ockert and Graham will provide an illustrated report documenting their findings and concerns with photographs, diagrams, and narrative. The report, as much as possible of which will be posted, will outline specific recommendations to improve safety and security, if necessary.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Vermont State Hospital Futures Advisory Group** (currently scheduled)
 - February 24, 1-3 p.m., Conference Room 2B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington (Special meeting to discuss general program and process issues; no discussions of site-specific programs on the agenda).
 - March 20, 2-4:30 p.m., Room 100, Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex.
 - May 15, 2-4:30 p.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.

- June 26, 2- 4:30 p.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- **Futures Clinical Care Management Work Group** (*Please note change of dates and locations*)
 - March 10, 9-11 a.m., Room 107 (break-out: Room 102), Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex.
 - NOTE CHANGE: ~~April 7~~ April 28, 9-11 a.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- **Futures Residential Recovery (sub-acute) Work Group** (*Please note NEW change of locations*)
 - February 22, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services, ~~9 Heaton Street, Montpelier~~ 2 Moody Court, Waterbury (green building east of railroad station).
 - March 15, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services, ~~9 Heaton Street, Montpelier~~ 2 Moody Court, Waterbury (green building east of railroad station).
 - April 5, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services, ~~9 Heaton Street, Montpelier~~ 2 Moody Court, Waterbury (green building east of railroad station).
 - April 26, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services, ~~9 Heaton Street, Montpelier~~ 2 Moody Court, Waterbury (green building east of railroad station).
- **Futures Facilities Work Group (With Architecture+)**
 - February 21, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - March 3, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - March 14, 11 a.m., (Vermont Psychiatric Survivors-hosted consumer focus group), Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - March 14, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - April 3, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - May 22, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - June 12, all day, for presentations; various locations to be announced.
- **Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services and Local Mental Health Program Standing Committees**
 - March 24, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., statewide meeting, Chamber of Commerce Building, Berlin. The Vermont Council is sponsoring this meeting – a wonderful opportunity to recognize the work of local committees and to gain informed feedback about issues facing consumers, family members and local communities.

VSH Census

The Vermont State Hospital census was 46 as of midnight Thursday night. The average census for the past 45 days was slightly more than 48.

Questions and comments about the Mental Health Update may be directed to John Howland Jr. (howland@vdh.state.vt.us). If you are reading a print version of this Update, you may find the web version at www.healthyvermonters.info/mh/mhindex.shtml